

Fact Sheet 2

Bloodsworth Island Range

Safety



Why is there a public safety program?

The Navy established its public safety program for Bloodsworth Island Range to protect all bay area residents and visitors. Some of the safety measures instituted include **No Trespassing** signs posted on and around Bloodsworth Island Range; radio broadcasts announcing when operations will take place in the area; use of range boats to survey and clear the area prior to operations; and a working relationship with many watermen in the area that alerts them in advance of scheduled operations.

The Navy places significant importance on this safety program because Bloodsworth Island Range is known to contain unexploded ordnance (UXO). Prior to the Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River's ownership, the range was used to test live bombs and other ordnance. Although the range is still active (i.e., used frequently for operations), live fire operations have not taken place at Bloodsworth Island Range since 1995.

What is unexploded ordnance?

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) are any fired or released explosive munitions that do not detonate (i.e., "duds"). UXO can vary significantly in size and include exploding devices such as bombs and grenades.

Areas that were once cleared of surface UXO may later become dangerous as buried UXO migrate to the surface due to seasonal freeze-thaw cycles and shoreline erosion.

All UXO, whether intact or fragmented, present a potential safety hazard. UXO may be encountered as isolated munitions or as one of many in a given area.

In areas where UXO are discovered, it is safe to assume that additional UXO are present.



Checking for unexploded ordnance on the Bloodsworth Island Range, top. Photo provided by CH2MHill.



A "No Trespassing" sign on Bloodsworth. Photo provided by NAS Patuxent River Photo Imaging Lab.

What areas of the Bloodsworth Island Range are accessible to the public?

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers designated waters surrounding Bloodsworth, Pone, Adam, and Northeast islands as a **Danger Zone**. Access to the Danger Zone is allowed so long as no military activities are occurring at Bloodsworth Island Range that require clearance of the area.

Currently, no military activities are occurring in the area that would require Danger Zone clearance of watercraft. If this changes, the public will be notified in advance.

What areas of Bloodsworth Island Range are prohibited?

Bloodsworth Island Range consists of five islands: Great Cove (submerged), Adam, Pone, Northeast, and Bloodsworth. All five islands have been and continue to be off-limits to all persons and vessels 24-hours a day.

The public is allowed to boat and fish in Danger Zone waters (see map on back); however, no activities are allowed within 75 yards from the islands, as measured from low tide and no activities are allowed within the Prohibited Areas. The 75 yard area is called the **No Navigation Zone**. No permanent structures, such as pound nets, are allowed in the Danger Zone or No Navigation Zone at any time.

Exceptions are made only with prior approval from the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commanding Officer and for persons accompanied by a Navy escort.

In addition to restricting access to the islands, a **Prohibited Area** was designated by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (under their authority to regulate navigable waters). This Prohibited Area is in the water west of Pone Island and within a 0.5 radius from latitude 38 degrees 10'00", longitude 76 degrees 06'00". This Prohibited Area is also off-limits at all times.

(See map on back)

Will sportsmen be able to use Bloodsworth Island Range for hunting and fishing?

Due to the presence of UXO on the island, a "No Hunting and No Trespassing" policy will be enforced at all times. Outside agencies may be used to enforce the No Trespassing policy.

What should watermen and fishermen do if they pull up scrap metal or UXO in nets or crab pots?

In the unlikely event that you pull up suspected UXO, immediately notify the NAS Patuxent River Command Duty Officer 301.342.1095. Explosive Ordnance Detachment (EOD) personnel will be sent to identify, recover, and dispose of the material.

What is the U.S. Navy doing to clean up UXO?

Since Bloodsworth Island Range is still active, and active ranges are not subject to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (a federal regulation that outlines classification, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes), there are no plans or requirements for the Navy or the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the site.

Ordnance clearance operations are performed **as needed** if and when operations occur on the island. These clearance operations remove scrap metal and UXO due to potential safety hazards. If any discovered UXO pose an immediate threat to human safety, Navy EOD personnel will be notified and will remove the UXO.

The public should be aware that UXO on Bloodsworth Island Range pose a potential safety hazard. The presence of UXO is expected on a Navy range that has been used to test live ordnance. The presence of UXO is the primary reason civilians are not allowed to trespass on the island.

In addition, Bloodsworth Island Range will continue to be off-limits to the public because it is and always has been authorized as an **emergency drop site** for both live and inert ordnance.

Prohibited Area & Danger Zone on the Bloodsworth Island Range

